Growth rate of agriculture

2901. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that annual growth rate of agriculture and allied sectors is much less than the GDP growth rate of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for very less growth rate of agriculture;

(d) whether Government had taken any steps to beat the vagaries of monsoon and achieve the desired growth of the sector through improved farming methods, mechanization and technological innovations, etc.; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The annual growth rate of agriculture and allied sectors at 1999-2000 prices was less than that of the overall GDP of the country during 2002-03 to 2005-06. The year-wise details of the growth scenario of agriculture and allied sectors *vis-a-vis* the overall GDP are given below:

(at 1999-2000 prices)

Year	Growth in Percentage	
	Agriculture & allied sector	Total for all sectors
2002-2003	-6.9	3.8
2003-2004	10.0	8.5
2004-2005	0.7	7.5
2005-2006	3.4	8.1

(c) Since only about 40 per cent of the net sown area is under assured irrigation, agriculture growth is dependent on the rainfall and its geographical spread. In the absence of assured irrigation, the capacity of Indian Agriculture to grow at an expected rate gets eroded due to weather related shocks.

(d) and (e) The Union Government have taken number of steps which help agriculture sector to withstand the vagaries of monsoon and achieve higher growth:

Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) launched in 1996-97 has been provided an outlay of Rs.7121 crores in the year 2006-07 as against an outlay of Rs.4500 crores it the year 2005-06 to improve the pace of implementation/completion of the on-going irrigation projects.

Micro Irrigation Technology comprising drip and sprinkler technology is promoted on a large scale to increse the coverge to 3 million hectares by the end of Tenth plan and to 14 million hectares by the end of the Eleventh Plan.

Rainfed farming is also encouraged in arid and semi-arid regions of the country.

National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is under implementation to provide insurance coverage to the farmers in the event of failure of crop due to occurrence of natural clamity, pests and diseases.

To minimize post-harvest losses in agriculture produce, new techniques and systems have been devised and are disseminated to the farmers.

Necessary support is provided to the States in strengthening their extension efforts by way of dissemination of latest knowledge and technology information to farmers.

Subsidy is also provided through state departments of agriculture for enhancement of the production of good quality seeds and their distribution in respect of various crops.

Public-private partnership is encouraged in the areas of contract farming, direct marketing through amendment of Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee Act of different States.

Training Capacity of CIFNET

2902. PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CIFNET has forwarded proposals to double the training capacity for the fiscal year 2006-07;

(b) if so, the details thereof;